

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

#### Listing of claims

1. (Currently amended) A package, comprising:
  - a wraparound carton; and
  - a plurality of articles arranged with a recess defined between adjacent ones of said articles, said articles being packaged in said carton, said articles being interconnected to provide an upper planar face of said articles;said carton comprising a top wall, a side wall, a base wall, and a beam structure arranged to form a tubular structure that encircles said articles, said top wall being disposed in contact with said upper planar face, a longitudinal axis of said beam structure being inclined to the plane of said top wall, said beam structure comprising:
  - first and second opposite ends, wherein said beam structure is arranged to be placed in said recess and is hingedly connected at said first opposite end to said base wall;
  - at least one medial fold line extending along the length of said beam structure; and
  - at least one angled fold line extending between an end of said at least one medial fold line and one of said opposite ends of said beam structure.
2. (Currently amended) A package, comprising:
  - a wraparound carton; and
  - a plurality of articles arranged with a recess defined between adjacent ones of said articles, said articles being packaged in said carton;

said carton comprising a top wall, a side wall, a base wall, and a beam structure arranged to form a tubular structure that encircles said articles, said beam structure comprising:  
first and second opposite ends, wherein said beam structure is arranged to be placed in said recess and is hingedly connected at said first opposite end to said base wall;  
at least one medial fold line extending along the length of said beam structure; and  
at least one angled fold line extending between an end of said at least one medial fold line and one of said opposite ends of said beam structure. ~~The package of claim 1 wherein said carton~~  
is provided with a second side wall, and wherein said second opposite end of said beam structure is hingedly connected to said second side wall.

3. (Previously presented) The package of claim 2 wherein said second opposite end is hingedly connected to said second side wall at an elevation intermediate said top wall and said base wall.

4. (Previously presented) The package of claim 1 wherein said second opposite end of said beam structure is hingedly connected to said top wall.

5. (Previously presented) The package of claim 1 wherein said beam structure comprises a pair of support panels hingedly connected along said at least one medial fold line.

6. (Previously presented) The package of claim 5 wherein said support panels are folded along said at least one medial fold line to define an angle therebetween and facilitate formation of said beam.

7. (Previously presented) The package of claim 1 wherein said beam structure comprises a pair of support panels and a medial panel, the medial panel being intermediate and hingedly interconnecting said support panels along said at least one medial fold line.

8. (Previously presented) The package of claim 5 wherein said support panels are hingedly connected to a bracket panel along said at least one angled fold line, said bracket panel being hingedly connected to said base wall.

9. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 8 wherein said bracket panel is triangular in shape.

10. (Previously presented) The package of claim 7 wherein said support panels are hingedly connected to a bracket panel along said at least one angled fold line, said bracket panel being hingedly connected to said base wall.

11. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 10 wherein said bracket panel is trapezoidal in shape.

12. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 10 wherein said beam structure further comprises a pair of gusset panels hingedly connected to said bracket panel and folded out of alignment therewith, wherein said gusset panels hingedly connect said support panels to said bracket panel.

13. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 12 wherein said gusset panels are folded out of alignment with respect to each of said support panels so as to abut walls of said adjacent articles.

14. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 5 wherein said support panels each at least in part abut a wall of a respective one of said adjacent articles.

15. (Original) The package as claimed in claim 7 wherein said support panels each at least in part abut a wall of a respective one of said adjacent articles

16. (Previously presented) The package of claim 1 wherein said base wall comprises a pair of first and second base wall panels secured together, and said beam structure is connected at said first opposite end to one of said base wall panels.

17. (Previously presented) The package of claim 16 wherein said first base wall panel is hingedly connected to said first side wall, and said second base wall panel is connected to said first opposite end of said beam structure.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A blank for forming a wraparound carton, comprising a plurality of wall panels hingedly interconnected in series, wherein said wall panels include a pair of base

wall panels at opposite ends of the blank, and wherein one of said base wall panels is connected to an adjacent wall panel through a beam forming portion, said beam forming portion comprising:

first and second opposite ends;

at least one medial fold line extending along the length of said beam forming portion;

at least one angled fold line extending between an end of said at least one medial fold line and one of said opposite ends of said beam forming portion; and

a bracket panel disposed at at least one of said opposite ends of said beam forming portion and being defined at least in part by said at least one angled fold line, said first opposite end of said beam forming portion being hingedly connected to said one base wall panel and a second opposite end of said beam forming portion extending to said adjacent wall panel wherein said second opposite end of said beam forming portion is hingedly connected to said adjacent wall panel along a first fold line. The blank as claimed in claim 19 wherein said

wall panels further include a first side wall panel hingedly connected to the other base wall panel along a second fold line, a top wall panel hingedly connected to said first side wall panel along a third fold line, and a second side wall panel hingedly connected to said top wall panel along a fourth fold line, said adjacent wall panel is said second side wall panel, and the distance between said first and fourth fold lines is less than the distance between said second and third fold lines.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The blank of claim 35 wherein said beam forming portion further includes a medial panel interposed between said support panels and between said bracket

panels, the medial panel being hingedly connected to each of said support panels along said at least one medial fold line.

23. (Previously presented) The blank of claim 22 wherein at least one of said bracket panels is trapezoidal in shape.

24. (Currently amended) The blank of claim 48 20 wherein at least one of said bracket panels is triangular in shape.

25. (Previously presented) The blank of claims 22 wherein said beam forming portion further includes at least one gusset panel, said at least one gusset panel interconnecting one of said bracket panels with one of said support panels.

26. (Currently amended) A method of forming a carton from said blank of claim 48 20 comprising the steps of:

(i) introducing an array of articles having a recess defined between adjacent ones of said articles, to said blank;

(ii) bringing said top wall panel into contact with an upper planar face of said articles by relative vertical motion between said blank and said array;

(# iii) inserting said beam forming portion into said recess to cause said support panels to be folded out of alignment and to engage walls of said adjacent articles; and

(### iv) folding said base wall panels into overlapping arrangement to be secured together.

27. (Currently amended) A wraparound carton, comprising;

a plurality of wall panels hingedly interconnected in series to form a tubular structure; wherein said wall panels include a pair of base wall panels secured together in an overlapping relationship; and wherein one of said base wall panels is connected to an adjacent wall panel through a beam structure; said beam structure comprising:

first and second opposite ends;

at least one medial fold line extending along the length of said beam structure;

at least one angled fold line extending between an end of said at least one medial fold line and one of said opposite ends of said beam structure; and

a bracket panel disposed at at least one of said opposite ends of said beam structure and defined at least in part by said at least one angled fold line; said first opposing end of said beam structure being hingedly connected to said one base wall panel and said second

opposing end of said beam structure extending to said adjacent wall panel, said beam structure having a longitudinal axis that is inclined to each of said wall panels.

28. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 27 wherein said second end of said beam structure is hingedly connected to said adjacent wall panel along a first fold line.

29. (Original) The carton as claimed in claim 28 wherein said wall panels further include a first side wall panel hingedly connected to and extending upwardly from the other base wall panel, a top wall panel hingedly connected to said first side wall panel and disposed above said base wall panels, and a second side wall panel hingedly connected to and extending downwardly from said top wall panel, said adjacent wall panel is said second side wall panel, and the distance between said first fold line and said top wall panel is less than the distance between said top wall panel and said base wall panels.

30. (Original) The carton as claimed in claim 28 wherein said wall panels further include a side wall panel hingedly connected to and extending upwardly from the other base wall panel, and a top wall panel hingedly connected to said side wall panel and disposed above said base wall panels, and said adjacent wall panel is said top wall panel.

31. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 36 wherein said beam structure further includes a medial panel interposed between said support panels and between said bracket panels, the medial panel being hingedly connected to each of said support panels along said at least one medial fold line.

32. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 31 wherein at least one of said bracket panels is trapezoidal in shape.

33. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 27 wherein at least one of said bracket panels is triangular in shape.

34. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 31 wherein said beam structure further includes at least one gusset panel, said at least one gusset panel interconnecting one of said bracket panels with one of said support panels.

35. (Currently amended) The ~~carton~~ blank of claim ~~48~~ 20 wherein said bracket panel disposed at at least one of said opposite ends of said beam forming portion and being defined at least in part by said at least one angled fold line comprises a bracket panel disposed at each



of said opposite ends, said beam forming portion further comprising a pair of support panels disposed between said bracket panels.

36. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 27 wherein said bracket panel disposed at at least one of said opposite ends of said beam structure comprises a pair of bracket panels disposed at each of said opposite ends of said beam structure, and wherein a pair of support panels is disposed between said bracket panels.